

Washington, D.C. - Representatives Lee Terry (NE-02) and Joe Pitts (PA-16) today released the text of a letter they spearheaded urging leaders on the House Appropriations Committee to support House-passed funding levels (\$114.5 million) for the Community Based Abstinence Education Program.

"I am pleased that over 40 Members of Congress joined our effort to bring effective abstinence education programs to teenagers," said Terry. "We must set a high standard to teach our children strong self-esteem, self-control, and genuine respect for others. The happiness and success of the next generation depends upon our ability to help them understand their worth and avoid the pitfalls of unmarried pregnancy and sexually-transmitted diseases."

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More than forty members of the House signed onto the letter, revealing a significant contingent of active supporters who believe that promotion of abstinence is a critical component of teaching 's youth to make positive life choices. The text of the letter and its signatories follow.

Congressman Pitts added, "It's so important to encourage our kids to make healthy choices.□ That's why the House has supported and continues to support abstinence education as a means to encourage strong self-esteem, lower teen pregnancy and slow the spread of sexually transmitted diseases."

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